

2007 Bench-to-Bedside Awards

August 9, 2006

TO: NIH Intramural Investigators

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research
Director, NIH Clinical Center

SUBJECT: FY 2007 Bench-to-Bedside Awards

We are pleased to announce the call for proposals for the FY 2007 bench-to-bedside program. The process is similar to the FY 2006 pilot bench-to-bedside program which incorporated new categories of projects and opportunities for extramural collaborations with intramural investigators. With contributions last year from the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), the Office of Rare Diseases (ORD), the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), and the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) and matching IC funds on several projects, over \$4M was awarded to intramural and extramural PIs.

Based upon this success, we have secured ~\$3M to support these awards from our same contributors as last year and ICs will match funds in 3 categories. We encourage intramural investigators to identify extramural researchers as partners. Thus, if the clinical investigator is from the intramural program, the basic science investigator could be from extramural NIH (or vice versa). The extramural partner must have a current NIH grant related closely to the general subject of the bench-to-bedside proposal. Projects with intramural and extramural partners will receive priority. For FY 2007, proposals once again may be submitted within the following five categories.

(1) Rare Diseases: The ORD will co-fund with institutes up to nine projects for two years. These projects must focus on an area of science/research directly related to a rare disease. An orphan or rare disease is generally considered to have a prevalence of less than 200,000 affected individuals in the United States. Certain diseases with more than 200,000 affected individuals are included but subpopulations of these conditions may be less than the prevalence standard for a rare disease. A comprehensive list of rare diseases, updated regularly, is available at <http://ord.aspensys.com/asp/diseases/diseases.asp>.

(2) AIDS: The OAR will fund five exemplary AIDS-related projects for two years.

(3) Minority Health & Health Disparities: The NCMHD will co-fund with institutes up to five projects that improve outreach, recruitment, and retention of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. These projects must focus on an area of science/research that promotes minority health and supports the NIH effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities.

(4) Women's Health: The ORWH will provide funds to support one project for two years that focuses on efforts to improve the health of women through biomedical and behavioral research on the roles of sex and gender in health and disease.

(5) General: As in the past, additional meritorious projects will be awarded in the 'general' category to be funded by the sponsoring institutes. Extramural funds for the general category will be provided by the NCRR.

To summarize, up to 22 projects will receive a maximum of \$100,000/year. Support will be for two years. Investigators in all institutes/centers are eligible. Investigators must adhere to the deadlines and follow the instructions listed in Attachment 1. The timeline assures that Scientific and Clinical Directors have sufficient opportunity to review proposals. Information about the FY 2007 bench-to-bedside initiative is available electronically at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/btb/awards.shtml>.

A review group appointed by the Deputy Director for Intramural Research and the Director, Clinical Center will review and rank the proposals. The review group will include both intramural and extramural basic and clinical scientists representing multiple institutes and centers and will include expertise in rare diseases, AIDS, women's health and minority research. Criteria used by the review group are described in Attachment 1. Please note that preference will be given to those applications that address these criteria.

Principal investigators for each project must submit original proposals to the Scientific Directors and Clinical Directors of **all** institutes involved in the project by **October 23, 2006**. For each proposal submitted, an original copy of the budget sheet (Attachment 2) **must** be signed by Scientific and Clinical Directors. The appropriate category for each proposal should be clearly distinguished. On the budget sheet, extramural partners must identify an NIH grant which will need to be active during the period of this project and directly related to the subject matter of the proposal.

Proposals **with required signatures** are due in Dr. Gallin's office (CRC 6-2551) by **Monday, November 13, 2006**. Please note that it is the responsibility of the principal investigators to verify that all Scientific and Clinical Directors involved in each project receive proposals in a timely manner for review and that signed originals of each proposal are delivered to CRC 6-2551 by the November 13th deadline. Principal investigators for projects selected will be notified in mid-December 2006.

For projects selected for awards, extramural funds will be directed as an administrative supplement to the grant and, if indicated, the amounts of funds to extramural investigators may be increased to cover indirect costs. Direct costs at participating institutions cannot exceed \$50,000/year. All funds for extramural partners will come from the contributors described above.

Principal investigators for all awarded projects will be required to submit annual progress reports on the project's status.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the bench-to-bedside program.

/s/
Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

/s/
John I. Gallin, M.D.

Attachments

cc: Institute Directors
Scientific Directors
Clinical Directors
Jack Whitescarver, Ph.D., Director Office of AIDS Research
Stephen C. Groft, Pharm.D, Director Office of Rare Diseases
Vivian W. Pinn, M.D., Director Office of Research on Women's Health
John Ruffin, Ph.D., Director, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Barbara Alving, M.D., Acting Director, National Center for Research Resources
Norka Ruiz Bravo, Ph.D., Deputy Director for Extramural Research